MARK MILLAR & LEINIL YU

SUPER CROOKS

ISSUE TWO

HOW FAR CAN A SUPERHERO FALL?

ICON

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SUPERCROOKS

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The Ghost, World's Greatest Cat-Burglar:

Not a chance.

KNOW YOURSE

Why not?

Because we always got ***caught,*** ***that's*** why not. There's five superheroes to every super criminal out there. Why would I want to join the old ***gang?***

You're missing the point of Johnny's ***plan,*** kid. We're not ***doing*** this in America. We're doing it in Spain, and there wouldn't be a cape for a thousand miles.

He's right, man. This job should be a ***piece of cake.***

I'm ***done*** with cake. I want to be ***normal.*** I've been making good money with this ***architect thing*** and the people are really ***nice.***

The people are ***boring,*** Josh. They haven't robbed a single bank. The Heat and I, you may recall, almost robbed ***Fort Knox.***

Now c'mon! We ***need*** you on this! You're the best intangible in ***the business,*** dude.

I'm not *in* the business anymore.

Okay. Fine. You won't do it for *me*? Do it for *him*.

What are you talking about?

Some guys have a pretty short *memory*, huh, Carmine?

You remember the first time you ended up in jail? You looked like Jimmy Stewart standing *sideways* and couldn't control that super-power to save your *life*.

"I heard the Irish and the Muslims and the Nazis were all trying to sign you up before *Carmine* took you under his wing.

"You were halfway through the friggin' *Koran* when he brought you into the prison's super-criminal community.

He trained you up, introduced you *around* and loaned you the money for your first proper *costume*. All for just a couple of *points*.

Is this how you *repay* the guy? By throwing him to the wolves when he runs up a *gambling debt*?

I wouldn't ask if I wasn't in a *jam*, kid.

When do you leave?

Day after tomorrow.

When are you back?

Week at the latest.

Fuck, I guess I'm due a little time off...and some ***sunshine*** wouldn't be a bad thing.

But I haven't got a ***passport*** or any of that stuff. Would I still have time to even buy a ***ticket*** now?

Relax, pal.

We already ***took care*** of that.

TK McCabe,
The Telekinetic:

You **believe** this shit? How does The Praetorian walk away from three hundred charges when even his **teammates** were giving evidence against him?

It's totally corrupt. And who the hell paid for that hot-shot lawyer? What kind of superhero can afford a million dollars in **legal fees?**

Hey! Where the hell are **you** going?

Home. That's me **done** for the day.

What are you **talking** about? You still got another truck to unload.

I thought **Banks** was doing that one.

Banks took off **twenty minutes** ago.

But I gotta go **too.** My wife's got a cleaning job at nine and I'm looking after my **little girl.**

Yeah, well, I guess there's been a **change of plan,** numb-nuts, coz you ain't finished **here.**

Now be a good boy and get those **pallets** moved, huh? The **night-shift's** gonna be in soon.

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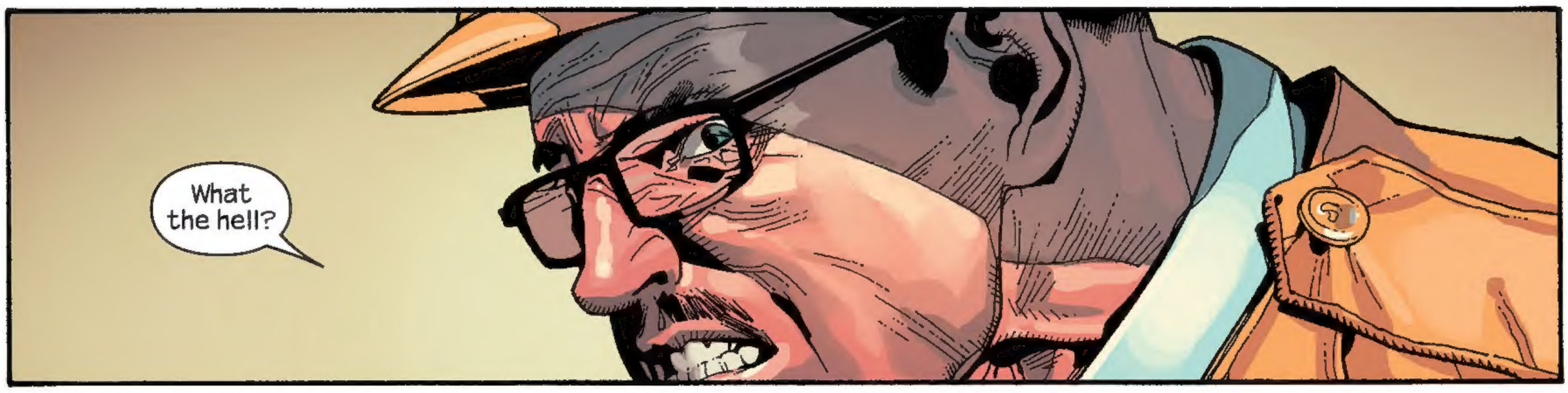

What the hell?

OPS

You little fuck!

Are you out of your *mind?* You know you're *not allowed* to do that shit!

You don't understand! My wife's gonna *lose her job* if she's late for work again!

Buddy, you just lost *yours* if that got caught on camera.

Now put it all back and do it *properly* this time like a nice, normal *person.*

Jesus! Everybody *warned* me about taking on an ex-con, but no. I had be *Mister Nice Guy.*

Well, what do you *think,* TK?

Ready for a *change of scene?*

Absolutely.

Forecast, *New York City's Weather-Maker:*

ONE WAY

Ten bucks for an umbrella? Are you out of your mind? This cheap, Chinese crap ain't worth *five.*

'Sides, it's the hottest July on *record,* man. Be better off selling *snow-mobiles.*

You *think?*

How the hell did you do *that?*

Supply and demand, dude. Simple economics. Who *else* is selling this time of year?

Something tells me you're in breach of your *parole,* Forecast.

Now how would you like to come and make some *real* money?

Roddy and Sammy Diesel,
The Indestructible Men:

I thought the Diesels ***went straight*** after they got outta the clink?

Are you kidding? They've been in and out of prison since they were ***four years old,*** Carmine. They wouldn't know straight if it bit them on the ***ass.***

They've been deep in the underground ***fight-scene*** for the last two years, but a little bird told me they've been scarcely making ***minimum wage.***

How come?

Nobody wants to fight 'em with that ***healing power*** of theirs. All the other villains say it's too much of an advantage.

Christ, is that we've ***come*** to? Fighting ***other*** crooks for ***money?***

I saw these two beat ten or twenty ***capes*** when we did that job in Philly. They had to be the toughest sons of bitches I maybe ever ***worked*** with.

Goddamn friggin' ***super-heroes.***

Is ***this*** what they've reduced us to?

SLIM

Make some noise, motherfuckers! Give us your love! Coz the Diesels gonna fuck these weasels! Just you wait and seasel!

Robocock and Doctor Dicktopus is goin' DOWWWNNN!

You suck, man!

I suck? I ain't your mama, boy! But I might be yo' daddy!

That's not a joke, by the way. He's completely serious. My brother is a very promiscuous man.

So which one are we hiring?

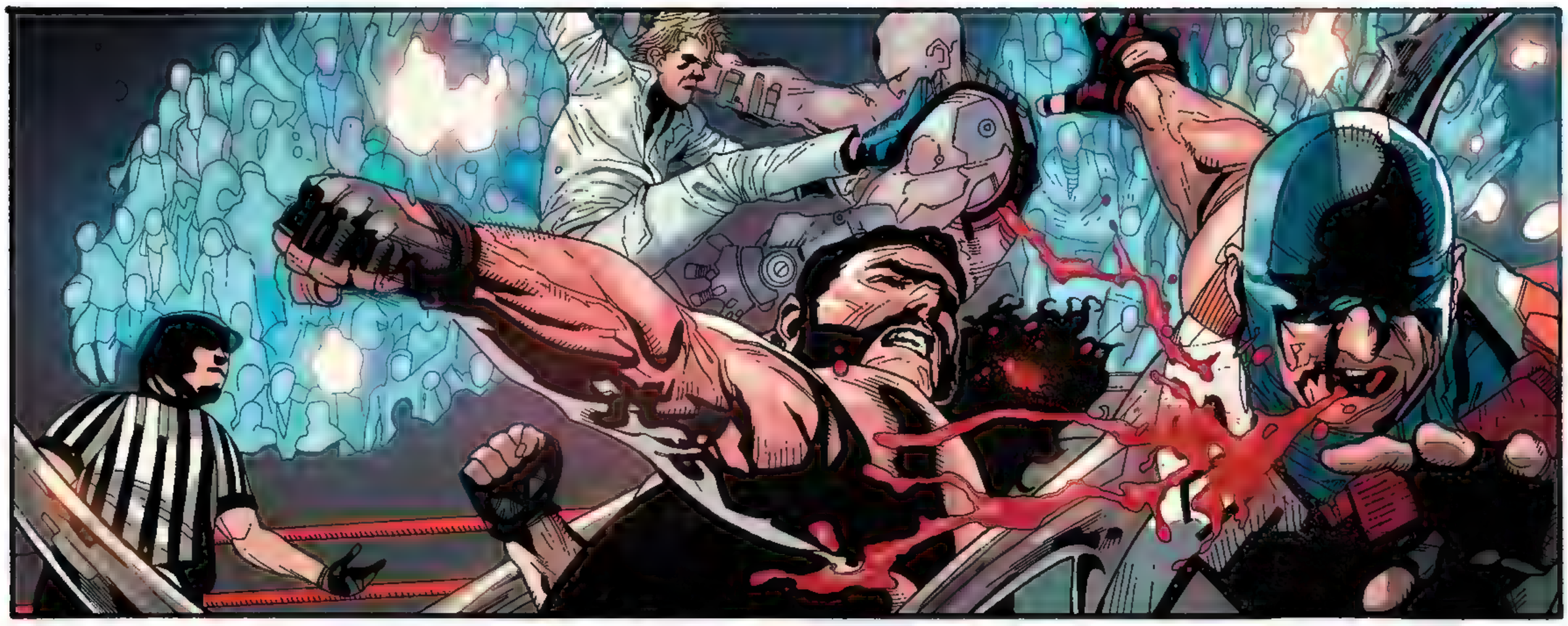
I'm not sure. We only need one indestructible, and Roddy and I go way back. Then again, I did a little time with Sammy too, so I haven't made up my mind.

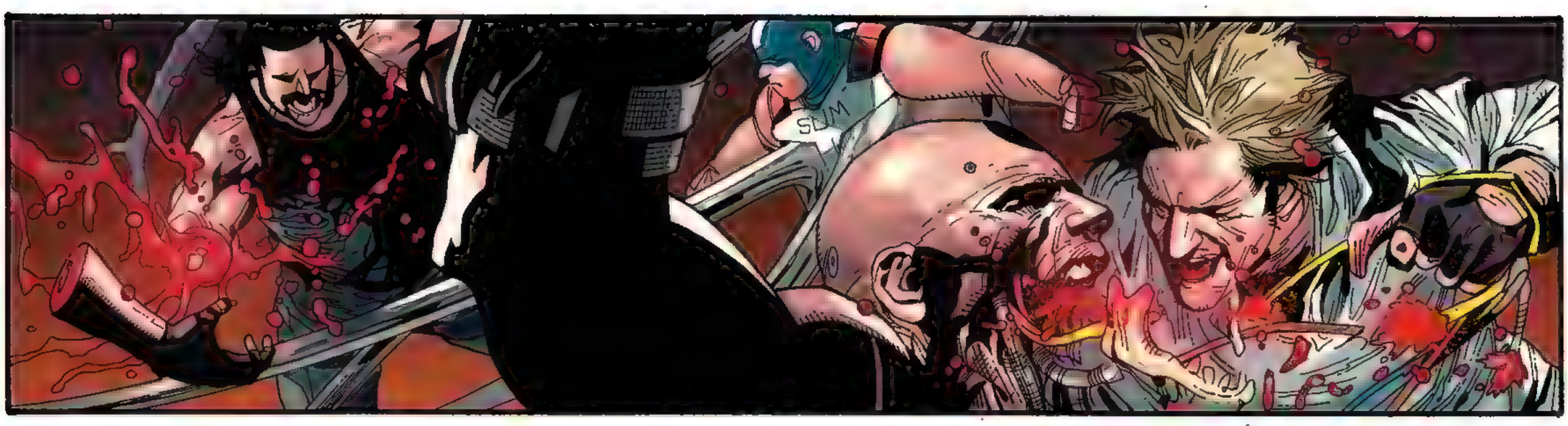
DING DING

Shitting yourself, muthafucka? Enjoy it while you can, coz tomorrow you gonna be shittin' in a bag!

SLIM

I'm gonna clean your clock, four-arms! When I get done, you gonna have four assholes!




SLIM

KUHHH!

Jesus! I forgot how brutal Sammy was.
You gotta go for him, Johnny! Sammy was always the dangerous one!

Keep 'em coming, ass-rabbit! Whatever you tear off, we just grow straight back!
Well, I hope you packed a spare pair of balls, dude...

AAARGH!

Fuck.

You *okay*, bro?!

I'm *fine!* Just keep me in *the fight!* You gotta do *"The Full McCartney"* so I can have *revenge* on that asshole!

Good *call!*

RAAARGH!

Jesus Christ.

Is this actually *happening?*

Here comes *the pain,* dick-bag!

SLIM

I'll beat you *so hard,* your *ancestors* are gonna bleed!

Welcome to FUCK-A-GEDDON!

YAAYY!

What the hell?

Let's just take the *two* of 'em.

Tenerife;
The heist is on:

I still can't believe you talked me *into* this. It's like *you're* the one with psychic powers.

Do you know what they'll do if they *catch us*, Johnny? Did you read those signs about their *super-power ban?*

Just keep that psychic cloak around us and everything will be *sweet*, Kasey. I don't want to end up in a dirty Spanish jail any more than *you do*, honey.

Enjoy your *conference*, Rabbi. I didn't *realize* we had such a large Jewish community on the island these days.

Hell, yeah. You got *loads* of Jews, man. Now have a nice day and don't *work* too hard, huh? My buddies and I got some *prayers* to go to.

Come on, Rabbi Diesel. I thought we agreed you were gonna stay nice and quiet 'til we got you your *medication.*

Now I know you've got the **customs desks** *covered, but what are those mean-looking guys seeing on their* **monitors** *up there?*

Whatever we **want** *them to see, Johnny. Just relax. They're scanning the flights for super-villains, but I've got every brain covered for a hundred feet* **around** *us.*

You know I could not love you *more* right now?

Yeah, well, as it turns out, I'm only here for one, very specific reason.

Dirty weekend with *me?*

Loyalty to an *old friend.*

Once Carmine can pay off his *gambling debts,* I'm on the first plane home. *Understand?* You'll never see or hear from me *again.*

Suits me. That gives me *three entire days* to win you back. I'm the *luckiest guy alive!*

Soon:

Los Apartment Americanos

Los *Apartment Americanos...!*

...I kinda like the sound of that. Very *patriotic.*

How come we're staying in an apartment *anyway?* I thought we'd be staying in a *hotel.*

No, hotels have *security* and too many *people* around. An apartment gives us a little more *privacy.*

This is *some place* you booked us, Johnny. Look at all this *space.* It's like a freakin' *palace.*

Hey, where the hell did you get the *robotic arms?*

We won them in a *fight*, TK. Pretty cool, huh?

You like my *power-gloves?* God, I can't wait to punch someone in *the face* with these babies.

So what do you think of the team's *big table*, huh? This is where we're going to *do it*, folks. This is where we're gonna put together the greatest heist of all time.

You gonna tell us what it *is* yet, Johnny?

Yeah, what's with all the *cloak and dagger* stuff?

All in good time, my friends. I want to get the entire team together before I spill all the details.

Oh yeah. That's right.

We've still got the lovely *Glenda* to pick up.

It's so awesome we're *doing* this.

Johnny's got balls of *steel.*

The Bad-Ass:

Any sign of her?

Nothing yet.

I can see some English drunks hanging around, but I'm hoping they don't get *too rowdy*. Any trouble and Glenda will just *walk away*.

You want us to get rid of them, JB?

Nah, just keep an eye on them, bud.

What's the hell's holding this bitch *up?* Our appointment was *fifteen minutes ago.*

Patience, young Skywalker. There's a festival on. She might just be waiting for a cab from her hotel.

Sorry to keep you waiting.

I wasn't sure what to wear and got changed three times. Does that sound ridiculous from a forty-year-old man?

Glenda?

I hope you're not disappointed. My profile pic's a couple of years old and I've kinda thinned out a little upstairs.

But who the hell posts a recent picture on these things, right?

Absolutely.

You, on the other hand, look fantastic. You've no idea how much I've been looking forward to this. I couldn't think about anything else the whole way here.

Waiter, could my friend and I have two glasses of whatever he ordered *already*, please?

Si, señor.

You genuinely don't recognize me, do you?

Of course I do. You're Poppabear from the website. Maybe a little more *clothed* than I've seen you before.

Five years ago. New York City. You beat the shit out of me and left me handcuffed to a pole on a subway train. Are you honestly telling me you don't *remember* that?

What?

I know who you *are*, asshole.

Look, I think there's been some kind of *misunderstanding* here...

Sit down.

I'm sorry. This is just getting *weird*...

I said ***sit down,*** Gladiator!

There. Isn't that a lot friendlier?

Now, the world might think you're some bad-ass avenger. Your wife might think you're off on some top-secret superhero mission.

But I know the truth, man: That you like meeting guys online and hooking up with them in exotic locales for a little ***bareback buckaroo.***

These are your last five seconds of ***consciousness,*** you moron...

I don't ***think*** so. Because my friends have you completely surrounded and if a single hair on my delicate head gets harmed...

Well, let's just say every news agency in the world gets a look at those ***R-rated photos*** you've been sending me.

How the hell did you find this out?

I shared a cell with one of your *former lovers,* girlfriend.

That's the thing about *living a lie:* Sooner or later, you're going to bump uglies with a blabbermouth who likes his booze.

What do you *want?*

Well, as much as I'm enjoying this little moment of *revenge,* I'm a liberal dude and I don't wanna mess with your *public persona.*

I'm happy to forget everything I know if you help my friends and I with a little *robbery* we've got planned.

Out of the question. I'm still a superhero. I don't care what you say to the papers. I will not be complicit in any kind of crime.

"Mommy? Why are there pictures of Daddy's pee-pee on the news?"

Hahaha!

Oh, man. This is *beautiful.* I swear to God, I've really missed working with this lunatic.

You little piece of shit...

Now I want you to relax. We're not here to *rob any banks* or dear, old *Spanish grandmothers.*

We're here to fleece a retired super-criminal and help him part with all that *loot* he's been funneling into *ridiculous investments.*

Who exactly are we *talking* about here?

You!

¡Dios mío!

Señor Praetorian! Please! We don't want any trouble!

Get the fuck off that car, ass-wipe!

'Ey, chill out, mate. We was just having a few beers.

Chill out? You want me to chill the fuck out?

Shit!

Oh, God. Please. Stop.

Just having a little *fun*, man...

...chill the fuck *out*.

DEET DEET

The Praetorian? You're here to rob *The Praetorian?*

Nah, he's just ***the bodyguard.*** The new head of of security for the guy we're ***targeting.*** We're after the man who lives like ***a king*** up there in the mountains...

Tell Marco the soup was excellent tonight, Carlos. I'm very pleased.

Si, Señor Matts.

Your car, sir.

Thank you, Praetorian.

Holy shit. Is that who I ***think*** it is?

Johnny! You've got to be ***kidding!*** I thought we came here to make things ***easier!***

Are you out of your mind?

We're going for ***the big one,*** dude. The greatest super villain who has ever ***lived.*** Mister ***Christopher Matts...***

"...a.k.a. *The Bastard.*"

To Be Continued...

ZONE